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of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers;

a first external electrode formed on the first surface of said laminate and extending to substantially the same point along portions of the narrower and wider surfaces of said laminate, said first external electrode being coupled to the first group internal electrodes; and

a second external electrode formed on the second surface of said laminate and extending along only the wider surface of said laminate, said second external electrode being coupled to the second group internal electrodes.

28. (Amended) A piezoelectric/electrostrictive device comprising a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element including a substantially trapezoidal laminate having narrower and wider surfaces lying substantially in parallel to one another and first and second surfaces opposed to one another between the narrower and wider surfaces, the first and second surfaces being inclined at given angles with respect to one of the narrower and wider surfaces, said laminate comprising a plurality of piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers and a plurality of internal electrodes each of which is disposed between an adjacent two of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers, the internal electrodes being divided into first and second groups, each of the first group internal electrodes lying over one of the second group internal electrodes and being separated by one of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers; a first external electrode formed on the first surface of said laminate and extending to substantially the same point along portions of the narrower and wider surfaces of the laminate, said first external electrode being coupled to the first group internal electrodes; and a second external electrode formed on the second surface of said laminate and extending along only the wider surface of the laminate, said second external electrode being coupled to the second group internal electrodes, wherein said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element is bonded to a surface

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of a movable plate on a side of the narrower surface of said laminate.

Please add new claims 29 and 30 as follows:

29. (New) A piezoelectric/electrostrictive element comprising:

a substantially trapezoidal laminate having narrower and wider surfaces lying substantially in parallel to one another and first and second surfaces opposed to one another between the narrower and wider surfaces, the first and second surfaces being inclined at given angles with respect to one of the narrower and wider surfaces, said laminate comprising a plurality of piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers and a plurality of internal electrodes each of which is disposed between an adjacent two of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers, the internal electrodes being divided into first and second groups, each of the first group internal electrodes lying over one of the second group internal electrodes and being separated by one of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers and defining a piezoelectric/electrostrictive operating portion substantially in the shape of a rectangular plate having substantially parallel sides;

a first external electrode formed on the first surface of said laminate and extending along the wider surface of said laminate, said first external electrode being coupled to the first group internal electrodes; and

a second external electrode formed on the second surface of said laminate and extending along the wider surface of said laminate, said second external electrode being coupled to the second group internal electrodes.

30. (New) A piezoelectric/electrostrictive device comprising a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element including a substantially trapezoidal laminate having narrower and wider surfaces lying

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substantially in parallel to one another and first and second surfaces opposed to one another between the narrower and wider surfaces, the first and second surfaces being inclined at given angles with respect to one of the narrower and wider surfaces, said laminate comprising a plurality of piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers and a plurality of internal electrodes each of which is disposed between an adjacent two of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers, the internal electrodes being divided into first and second groups, each of the first group internal electrodes lying over one of the second group internal electrodes and being separated by one of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layers and defining a piezoelectric/electrostrictive operating portion substantially in the shape of a rectangular plate having substantially parallel sides; a first external electrode formed on the first surface of said laminate and extending along the wider surface of the laminate, said first external electrode being coupled to the first group internal electrodes; and a second external electrode formed on the second surface of said laminate and extending along the wider surface of the laminate, said second external electrode being coupled to the second group internal electrodes, wherein said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element is bonded to a surface of a movable plate on a side of the narrower surface of said laminate.